



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/017,701	12/14/2001	Li-Wen Chen	52719.00036	5723
7590 12/06/2004				
MetaEdge Corporation 5201 Great America Parkway Suite 238 Santa Clara, CA 95054			EXAMINER NGUYEN, CINDY	
			ART UNIT 2161	PAPER NUMBER

DATE MAILED: 12/06/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/017,701

Applicant(s)

CHEN ET AL.

Examiner

Cindy Nguyen

Art Unit

2171

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 02 July 2004.
- 2a) ☒ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-23 and 25-28 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-23, 25-28 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 12 June 2002 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application) since a specific reference was included in the first sentence of the specification or in an Application Data Sheet. 37 CFR 1.78.
a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121 since a specific reference was included in the first sentence of the specification or in an Application Data Sheet. 37 CFR 1.78.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) 4, 5.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s) _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

This is in response to amendments filed 07/02/04.

Applicant's arguments have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

1. Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 101

35 U.S.C. 101 reads as follows:

Whoever invents or discovers any new and useful process, machine, manufacture, or composition of matter, or any new and useful improvement thereof, may obtain a patent therefor, subject to the conditions and requirements of this title.

the claimed invention is directed to non-statutory subject matter.

Claim 27 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 101 because the claims are not useful in technical art therefore they are non statutory and also they have non-function description material and function relationship. This differs, for instance, from a computer implemented method.

2. Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

3. Claim 23 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Hall et al. (U.S 5675785) (Hall).

Regarding claim 23, Hall discloses: An apparatus, comprising: means for generating one or more virtual schemas (104, fig. 6 and corresponding text, Hall, and 104 is a schemas contains the physical table configuration and relationship between tables of data therefore it is virtual schemas) including at least a portion of data input from a source (col. 14, lines 20-23, Hall);

Art Unit: 2161

means for generating mapping rules controlling data movement into a data warehouse (16, fig. 6 and corresponding text, Hall); means for holding the virtual schemas and mapping rules (col. 14, lines 25-33, Hall); means for generating one or more analysis functions based upon the virtual schemas and data input (col. 14, lines 20-63, Hall).

4. *Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103*

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

5. Claims 1-4, 13-22, 25 and 26 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hall et al. (U.S 5675785) (Hall) in view of Lipkin (U.S 6088698).

Regarding claim 1, Hall discloses: A method, comprising: receiving a first database (col. 4, lines 37-42, Hall); forming a virtual schema (warehouse schema, col. 4, 46-59, Hall) including at least a portion of a dataset included within the first database (col. 6, 52-61, Hall); receiving a first input indicating a criteria (col. 7, 37-40, Hall); aggregating data of the first database into one or more groupings in accordance with the virtual schema and the first input indicating the criteria (col. 6, line 62 to col. 7, Hall).

However, Hall didn't disclose: displaying one or more indicators associated with the one or more groupings on an n-dimensional presentation. On the other hand, Lipkin discloses: displaying one or more indicators associated with the one or more groupings on an n-dimensional presentation (col. 23, lines 30-50, Lipkin). Thus, at the time invention was made, it

Art Unit: 2161

would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art to include displaying one or more indicators associated with the one or more groupings on an n-dimensional presentation in the system of Hall as taught by Lipkin. The motivation being to enable the system provide a virtual world has a node called "bar" has defines a 3-dimension bar for a bar graph display the information (col. 23, lines 30-60, Lipkin).

Regarding claim 2, all the limitations of this claim have been noted in the rejection of claim 1 above. In addition, Hall/Lipkin discloses: further comprising: receiving a second input indicating one or more regions (col. 24, lines 35-36, Lipkin); storing the second input as a spatial-object meta data (col. 24, lines 35-36, Lipkin); and aggregating the groupings based upon the spatial-object meta data (col. 6, lines 30-40, Hall).

Regarding claim 3, all the limitations of this claim have been noted in the rejection of claim 2 above. In addition, Hall/Lipkin discloses: further comprising: displaying one or more indicators associated with the one or more groupings in a region associated therewith on an n-dimensional presentation (col. 28, lines 62 to col. 29, lines 10, Lipkin).

Regarding claim 4, all the Limitations of this claim have been noted in the rejection of claim 2 above. In addition, Hall/Lipkin discloses: wherein the region comprises at least one of: a polygon, a circle, a rectangle, an ellipse, and an animal home range (col. 24, lines 30-36, Lipkin).

Art Unit: 2161

Regarding claim 13, all the Limitations of this claim have been noted in the rejection of claim 2 above. In addition, Hall/Lipkin discloses: further comprising: receiving a third input indicating a one or more redefined regions; storing the third input as a redefined spatial-object meta data (col. 24, lines 30-36, Lipkin); and aggregating into new groupings based upon the spatial-object meta data (col. 24, lines 30-36, Lipkin).

Regarding claim 14, all the Limitations of this claim have been noted in the rejection of claim 2 above. In addition, Hall/Lipkin discloses: further comprising: redefining the virtual schema based upon the spatial-object meta data (col. 24, lines 30-44, Lipkin).

As per claims 15 and 16, all the Limitations of these claims have been noted in the rejection of claims 2 and 3. It is therefore rejected as set forth above.

Regarding claim 17, all the Limitations of this claim have been noted in the rejection of claims 1 and 2 above. It is therefore rejected as set forth above.

Regarding claim 18, all the Limitations of this claim have been noted in the rejection of claim 1 above. In addition, Hall/Lipkin discloses further comprising: generating code in accordance with the virtual schema (col. 21, lines 21-34, Lipkin).

Regarding claim 19, all the Limitations of this claim have been noted in the rejection of claim 1 above. In addition, Hall/Lipkin discloses further comprising: providing customer centric information to a core of customer data within the database in accordance with

Art Unit: 2161

the virtual schema (col. 13, lines 46-59, Hall).

As per claim 20, all the Limitations of these claims have been noted in the rejection of claims 1 and 2 above. It is therefore rejected as set forth above.

Regarding claim 21, all the limitations of these claims have been noted in the rejection of claims 1 and 2 above. In addition, Hall/Lipkin discloses: A system, comprising: a schema builder (24, fig. 1, and corresponding text, Hall) that generates one or more virtual schemas (col. 6, lines 62-65, Hall) including at least a portion of data input from a source (col. 7, lines 1-4, Hall), and generates mapping rules controlling data movement into a data warehouse (col. 7, lines 42-50, Hall); a metadata repository operative to hold the virtual schemas and mapping rules (col. 9, lines 30-40, Hall); a data warehouse builder (23, fig. 1, Hall); a region checker (col. 29, lines 20-33, Lipkin); a spatial-object data repository (page 27, fig. 1, Hall).

Regarding claim 22, all the limitations of this claim have been noted in the rejection of claim 21 above. In addition, Hall/Lipkin discloses: wherein the source comprises at least one of a plurality of on line transaction (OLTP) databases (col. 6, lines 63 to col. 7, lines 7, Hall).

Regarding claim 25, Hall/Lipkin discloses: A computer program product, comprising: code for accessing meta data from a repository (col. 6, lines 45-51, Hall); code for providing customer activity correlation queries with access to a database of a data warehouse (col. 6, lines 52-61, Hall); code for providing customer data analysis functions (col. 7, lines 42-50, Hall); code for providing analysis results to at least one of a plurality of business applications (col. 9, lines

Art Unit: 2161

30-40, Hall); and a computer readable storage medium for holding the codes (23, fig. 1, Hall); code for translating entities from a meta model into a data schema to form a database (col. 8, lines 58-65, Hall).

Regarding claim 26, all the limitations of this claim have been noted in the rejection of claim 1 above. In addition, Hall/Lipkin discloses a customer data analysis report produced according to the method of claim 1 (col. 7, table 1, Hall).

6. Claims 5, 6 and 7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hall et al. (U.S 5675785) (Hall) in view of Lipkin et al. (U.S 6088698) (Lipkin) and further in view of Michael Gonzales "Seeking spatial intelLipkingence,<http://intelLipkingententerprise.com/000120/feat1.shtml> provided by Applicant.

Regarding claim 5, all the limitations of this claim have been noted in the rejection of claim 2 above. However, Hall/Lipkin didn't disclose: wherein: the second input indicating one or more regions comprises: at least one of: an input from a user, a pre-determined area, a derivation based upon one or more objects on the n-dimensional presentation, and a result of a computation. On the other hand, Gonzales discloses: pre-determined area (table 1, page 2, Gonzales). Thus, at the time invention was made, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art to include the step for pre-determined area in the combination system of Hall/Lipkin as taught by Gonzales. The motivation being to enable the system maps the spatial entity and presenting spatial data across the organization.

Regarding claim 6, all the limitations of this claim have been noted in the rejection of claim 5 above. In addition, Hall/Lipkin/Gonzalez discloses: wherein: the pre-determined area comprises at least one of: a zip code, an area code, a census tract, a Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA), a nation state, a state, a county, a municipality, a latitude, and a longitude (table 1, page 2, Gonzales).

Regarding claim 7, all the limitations of this claim have been noted in the rejection of claim 5 above. In addition, Hall/Lipkin/Gonzalez discloses: wherein: the derivation based upon one or more objects on the n-dimensional presentation comprises: a region within a specified distance of a power line (distance of location to the warehouse in table 1, page 2, Gonzales).

7. Claims 8-10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hall et al. (U.S. 5675785) (Hall) in view of Lipkin et al. (U.S. 6088698) (Lipkin) and further in view of Michael Gonzales "Seeking spatial intelLipkingence, <http://intelLipkingententerprise.com/000120/feat1.shtml> and further in view of Anderson et al. "Coordinates of a Killer-Geospatial solutions" provide by Applicant.

Regarding claim 8, all the limitations of this claim have been noted in the rejection of claim 5 above. However, Hall/Lipkin/Gonzalez didn't disclose: wherein the result of a computation comprises: computing an animal home range, the home range providing a region defined by activities of a target; defining within the region a first ellipse; and defining within the region a second ellipse approximately orthogonal to the first ellipse; wherein an area defined

Art Unit: 2161

by intersection of the first ellipse and the second ellipse provides a greatest probability of finding the target. On the other hand, Anderson discloses: wherein the result of a computation comprises: computing an animal home range, the home range providing a region defined by activities of a target; defining within the region a first ellipse; and defining within the region a second ellipse approximately orthogonal to the first ellipse; wherein an area defined by intersection of the first ellipse and the second ellipse provides a greatest probability of finding the target (page 3, paragraphs 3-4, Anderson). Thus, at the time invention was made, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art to include the step for computing the activities of a target within the region as claimed in the combination system of Hall/Lipkin/Gonzales as taught by Anderson. The motivation being to enable the system maps of store and victim locations as well as economic geography theories and showing distance intervals for each store, also using the algorithms to calculate the animal movements (page 3, paragraphs 3-4, Anderson).

Regarding claim 9, all the limitations of this claim have been noted in the rejection of claim 8 above. In addition, Hall/Lipkin/Gonzale/Anderson discloses: wherein: the target comprises at least one of: a suspect, who perpetrated criminal acts defined by the data, a customer, who completed transactions in shops defined by the data, a source of biological material, which caused infections in persons defined by the data (page 3, paragraphs 3-4, Anderson).

Art Unit: 2161

Regarding claim 10, all the limitations of this claim have been noted in the rejection of claim 2 above. In addition, Hall/Lipkin /Anderson discloses: wherein: aggregating the groupings based upon the spatial-object meta data comprises: checking whether data points fall within a common region, and if so, aggregating data represented by the data points (col. 11, line 27-59, Lipkin).

8. Claims 11 and 12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hall et al. (U.S 5675785) (Hall) in view of Lipkin et al. (U.S 6088698) (Lipkin) and further in view of Lucas et al. (U.S 6075530) (Lucas).

Regarding claim 11, all the limitations of this claim have been noted in the rejection of claim 3 above. However, Hall/Lipkin didn't disclose: wherein: the n-dimensional presentation comprises a map. On the other hand, Lucas discloses: wherein: the n-dimensional presentation comprises a map (fig. 3 and corresponding text, Lucas). Thus, at the time invention was made, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art to include the step for pre-determined area in the combination system of Hall/Lipkin as taught by Lucas. The motivation being enable the system provides an opportunity to display the locations of just these units on the map, perhaps to determine the locations where supply warehouses should be established (col. 9, line 43-51, Lucas).

Regarding claim 12, all the limitations of this claim have been noted in the rejection of claim 11 above. In addition, Hall/Lipkin/Lucas discloses: wherein: displaying one or more indicators further comprises: determining an x, y coordinate for each region on the map; displaying at least one indicator associated with the one or more groupings on the map at the x, y coordinate (901, fig. 6 and corresponding text, Lucas).

Art Unit: 2161

9. Claims 27 and 28 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Brandt et al. (US 6714979) (Brandt) in view of Hall et al. (U.S 5675785) (Hall).

Regarding claims 27 and 28, Brandt disclose: a method, a computer readable storage medium containing information organized into a focal group and at least one customized group, comprising: at least one of a plurality of core components (col. 18, lines 7-19, Brandt); providing at least one customized group, (col. 23, lines 62 to col. 24, lines 9, Brandt), comprising: at least one of a plurality of customer activity components related to the core component (col. 23, lines 62 to col. 24, lines 9, Brandt); at least one of a plurality of activity lookup components related to at least one of the customer activity components (col. 19, lines 30-41, Brandt); wherein the focal group and the customized group comprise a reverse star schema meta model (col. 18, lines 36-40, Brandt). However, Brandt didn't disclose: at least one of a plurality of classification components providing classifications for information relating to the core component. On the other hand, Hall discloses: at least one of a plurality of classification components providing classifications for information relating to the core component (col. 8, lines 10-29, Hall). Thus, at the time invention was made, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art to include the step for pre-determined area in the system of Brandt as taught by Hall. The motivation being to enable the system provides security can more naturally be expressed in the terms of the business or subject and is relatively independent of physical changes in the warehouse (col. 8, lines 10-29, Hall).

10. Conclusion

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Bakalash et al. (U.S 2002/0029207). Data aggregation server for managing a multi-dimensional database and database management system having data aggregation server integrated therein.

Benedikt et al. (U.S 6202063). Methods and apparatus for generating and using safe constraint queries.

Roccaforte (U.S 6636870). Storing multidimensional data in a relational database management system.

Rosensteel Jr. et al. (U.S 6167405). Method and apparatus for automatically populating a data warehouse system.

Israni et al. (U.S 6308177). System and method for use and storage of geographic data on physical media.

11. Contact Information

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Cindy Nguyen whose telephone number is 703-305-4698. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F: 8:00-5:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Safet Metjahic can be reached on 703-308-1436. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are 703-872-9306 for regular communications and 703-872-9306 for After Final communications.

Art Unit: 2161

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 703-305-3900.

CN

Cindy Nguyen
November 26, 2004

Frantz Coby
FRANTZ COBY
PRIMARY EXAMINER